



Volume 2 | Issue 24

SYLLOGE ON WEST ASIA

FOCUS, NUCLEAR, MISSILES & OTHER
SECURITY ISSUES IN WEST ASIA

16 December - 31 December 2022



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Iran

Comdr vows for deploying fast, advanced vessels at sea borders

Islamic Republic News Agency, December 16, 2022

Deputy Commander of Iran's Border Guards for Operations Brigadier General Jalal Setareh lauded advanced military facilities in border guards, saying that fast and advanced vessels will be deployed at sea borders. According to the military protocols in the border areas, the Iranian borders are monitored and controlled 24/7, Setareh said. He also hailed Iran's progress in scientific, technology, nuclear, defense, and medical fields. He referred to safeguarding borders and preventing smuggling as priorities of the Iranian border guards.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84971906/Comdr-vows-for-deploying-fast-advanced-vessels-at-sea-borders>

Iran, Saudi officials to hold talks in Jordan: report

Tehran Times, December 17, 2022

The Lebanese online newspaper, El-Nashra, has claimed that a significant meeting will take place between Iranian and Saudi officials on the sidelines of the Iraq conference that will be hosted by Jordan. The second iteration of the Baghdad Conference for Cooperation and Partnership will take place on December 20 in Amman, Jordan, according to a report from El-Nashra. At the summit, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran, and several more Arab nations are expected to attend. Some Lebanese sources have speculated that Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman will meet on the sidelines of the conference. The announcement comes while Iranian

officials have yet to confirm such a meeting.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/479817/Iran-Saudi-officials-to-hold-talks-in-Jordan-report>

AEOI chief says Iran's nuclear enrichment capacity has more than doubled

Islamic Republic News Agency, December 17, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said on Saturday that the country's nuclear enrichment capacity has more than doubled. Eslami made the remarks in a meeting with the members of Majlis (Iranian Parliament) Strategic Fraction. He said that a Strategic Action Plan passed by Majlis in 2020 was an appropriate law for the development of the country's nuclear industry. Implementation of this law raised Iran's enrichment up to a level that it has more than doubled that of the total history of the country's nuclear industry, the official said.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/84972741/AEOI-chief-says-Iran-s-nuclear-enrichment-capacity-has-more-than>

Iran offers IAEA a chance for getting over differences

Tehran Times, December 17, 2022

A delegation from the UN nuclear watchdog is expected to arrive in Iran in the next few days in what appears to be another chance offered by Iran to the West to redress their past misbehavior. The visit comes amid a deadlock in both the talks over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and the negotiations between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) over a safeguards

probe. Mohammad Eslami, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), has expressed hope the trip of the IAEA delegation would set Tehran and the Agency on a path to resolve the current outstanding issues. Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Eslami voiced hope the upcoming visit of the International Atomic Energy officials to Tehran in the coming days can help resolve issues with the Agency. He said, "Our interactions with the Agency are underway and we hope a step forward be taken in the direction of addressing ambiguities and obstacles with the Agency."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/47982/8/Iran-offers-IAEA-a-chance-for-getting-over-differences>

N. Chief Hails Iran's Doubled Uranium Enrichment Capacity

Fars News Agency, December 18, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami hailed the country's achievements in the nuclear field, and declared that Tehran's uranium enrichment capacity is currently twice more than the start of the industry in Iran. Eslami made the remarks in a meeting with a group of Iranian lawmakers on Saturday. He lauded the Iranian Parliament over passing the "strategic action" for lifting of the anti-Tehran sanctions and safeguarding the national interests, noting that "the law has contributed to the development of the country's nuclear industry". "The capacity for the enrichment of uranium in Iran is currently twice the total capacity since the beginning of the nuclear industry in the country," the nuclear head noted.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010927000128/N-Chief-Hails-Iran's-Dbled-Uranim-Enrichmen-Capaciy>

Iran's upper hand in nuclear industry

Tehran Times, December 18, 2022

The Hamshahri newspaper, affiliated to the Tehran Municipality, put the spotlight on Iran's uranium enrichment to purity of 60 percent and warned the U.S. either lift the sanctions or witness more uranium enrichment. Until the U.S. has not given us the assurance to fulfill its obligations and lift the sanctions, the enrichment in Iran will continue based on internal strategies, said Seyyed Mohammadreza Mirtajoddini, head of the strategic faction of the parliament. Halting more uranium enrichment depends on the opposite parties to fulfill their obligations. Iran will reduce the purity of its uranium enrichment whenever the sanctions are lifted.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/479875/Iran-s-upper-hand-in-nuclear-industry>

AEOI Spokesman: Iran Continues 60% Uranium Enrichment

Fars News Agency, December 18, 2022

The Atomic Energy Agency of Iran (AEOI) Spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi underlined Iran's continued uranium enrichment at the purity level of 60 percent, and stressed that Tehran continues nuclear research and development as well as production of new generations of centrifuge machines. Kamalvandi stated on Saturday that Iran's enrichment of uranium has officially reached the purity level of 60 percent in accordance with a parliamentary law seeking to accelerate the development of the Iranian nuclear program. The spokesperson made the remarks in a meeting with a number of Iranian lawmakers on Saturday, referring to the December 2020 law – dubbed the Strategic Action Plan to Counter Sanctions, which is aimed at countering sanctions and

promoting the country's peaceful nuclear program.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010927000245/AEOI-Spkesman-Iran-Cnines-60-%D8%AF%D8%B1%D8%B5%D8%AF-Uranim-Enrichmen>

Iran Showcases First Domestic Dynamitron Accelerator

Fars News Agency, December 18, 2022

The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) unveiled a first homegrown industrial electrostatic accelerator device called "Dynamitron". AEOI Chief Mohammad Eslami and Iran's minister of higher education Mohammad Ali Zolfigol attended a ceremony in Tehran on Saturday to unveil the Dynamitron-type accelerator which has been developed and funded by Iran's Nuclear Science and Technology Research Institute (NSTRI). The Dynamitron is an electrostatic particle accelerator used to generate a high DC voltage on an electrode, which accelerates particles through an evacuated beam tube between the electrode and a target at ground potential. Dynamitron accelerator device has applications in the field of food irradiation, sterilization of medical equipment, wire and cable irradiation, tire irradiation, foam and heat shrinkable material irradiation, sewage irradiation, ion implantation, ion beam analysis, and neutron generator in boron neutron capture therapy (BNCT).

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010927000343/Iran-Shwcases-Firs-Dmesic-Dynamirn-Accelerar>

4 Security Forces Martyred in Clashes with Terrorists in Southeast Iran,

Militants Flee toward Pakistan

Fars News Agency, December 19, 2022

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) announced that four Iranian security forces have been martyred in a terrorist attack in Southeastern Iran on Monday. An officer of the IRGC and three members of the Basij volunteer force have been killed in clashes with terrorists who opened fire on them in Sistan and Baluchestan province close to the border with Pakistan. The IRGC Ground Force's Quds Base said in a statement on Monday that Second Lieutenant Mohammad Gouradzi and three Basij members, identified as Rahim Bakhshparaki, Hamidreza Abedi and Mahmoud Nikkhaah, lost their lives when IRGC forces engaged in a fierce exchange of fire with terrorists in the Saravan region of the province.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010928000627/4-Secriy-Frces-Maryred-in-Clashes-wih-Terriss-in-Sheas-Iran-Milians>

IAEA team concludes visit to Iran

Tehran Times, December 19, 2022

An IAEA delegation who had visited Tehran early on Monday met with Iranian officials at the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI). They also left Tehran for Vienna on Monday. The delegation from the International Atomic Energy Agency was headed by Massimo Aparo, chief of Department of Safeguards and the IAEA deputy director. The IAEA officials held talks with the chief of the Iranian Foreign Ministry Department for International, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and the director for the Foreign Ministry

Department for Arms Control and International Security. The IAEA team also held talks with AEOI chief Mohammad Eslami. During the negotiations the sides exchanged views on safeguards issues, areas for cooperation and future joint plans, the AEOI said in a press release.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/479891/IAEA-team-concludes-visit-to-Iran>

Iran Dismantles Mossad Espionage Network Planning to Sabotage Defense Industry

Fars News Agency, December 19, 2022

Iran's Intelligence Ministry announced that the country's security agents captured the members of a Mossad spy network who were planning to sabotage Iran's defense industry. Iran's intelligence forces uncovered a plot by a Mossad espionage network to gather information from Iranian knowledge-based companies that cooperate with Iran's defense industries. The Israeli regime's Mossad spy agency hired data broker Frank Genin, who introduced himself as the chief of a spare parts manufacturer company and was able to contact several Iranian companies and employees, according to a report. The Mossad agent then invited his coworkers to a seminar in Malaysia, where he introduced them to another Mossad agent, Hadrien Lavaux.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010928000346/Iran-Dismantles-Mossad-Espionage-Network-Planning-Sabotage-Defense-Industry>

Iran ready to resume Vienna talks: Envoy

Tehran Times, December 20, 2022

Iranian Ambassador to the United Nations Amir Saeid Iravani reiterated Iran's readiness to resume the stalled talks in

Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. The United Nations Security Council held a non-proliferation meeting on December 19. The meeting, titled "Non-Proliferation: Implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015)," was designed to take stock of the latest about Resolution 2231 which endorsed the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). In the meeting, the Council members once again expressed their support for the JCPOA's restoration and called for its full implementation as the only viable course of action. Iravani pointed out that the JCPOA can only be restored by addressing the root causes of its current situation, that is the U.S. withdrawal therefrom on 8 May 2018.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/479950/Iran-ready-to-resume-Vienna-talks-Envoy>

IRGC Qods Force Commander: 50 Operations Conducted Against Israel Each Day

Fars News Agency, December 21, 2022

Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Qods Force Commander Esmayeel Qaani said that dozens of operations are carried out against the Israeli regime every day, warning the Zionist regime that the era of hit-and-run has come to an end. Brig. Gen. Qa'ani noted on Tuesday that between 40 to 50 operations are carried out against Israel in the occupied West Bank alone every day, adding that the occupying regime is today desperate and under intense pressure. He stated that it won't be long before the Palestinians expel the Israelis from their land.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14010930000303/IRGC-Qods-Force-Commander-50-Operations-Conducted-Against-Israel-Each-Day>

Nuclear Chief: Iran to Turn into Global Hub for Deuterium Drugs in Near Future

Fars News Agency, December 26, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said that Tehran is seeking to become a deuterium drugs hub in the world. Eslami made the remarks in a ceremony to inaugurate a modern gamma knife radiosurgery facility in Tehran on Sunday. "In a not too distant future we will turn into a hub for manufacturing drugs based on deuterium which are good alternatives to chemical drugs and have lower side effects in comparison (to those drugs)," he stated. The nuclear head added the AEOI will continue to provide technologies and equipment to domestic suppliers to help them in their efforts to manufacture sophisticated drugs and medical appliances. Researchers believe deuterium, which is a heavy isotope of hydrogen, can substantially improve the metabolic properties of medicines and make them more effective by forming a stronger chemical bond to a carbon atom of a molecule used in drugs.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011005000083/Nuclear-Chief-Iran-Trn-in-Glbal-Hb-fr-Deerim-Drgs-in-Near-Fre>

N. Chief: IAEA Delegation to Visit Iran in Early 2023

Fars News Agency, December 28, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami confirmed that officials of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will travel to Tehran following New Year holidays to hold talks with Iranian officials regarding

the country's nuclear program. Eslami said preparations are underway for a visit by IAEA's officials to Iran in the near future upon a demand by the UN nuclear watchdog. He was asked by reporters on Wednesday about a possible visit by IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi and other officials of the agency. Iran's nuclear head added that the IAEA has "shown willingness" for such a visit, which is slated to take place following New Year holidays.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011007000548/N-Chief-IAEA-Delegain-Visi-Iran-in-Early-2023>

Russia set to supply Iran with Su-35 fighter jets 'in near future'

Tehran Times, December 28, 2022

The Islamic Republic of Iran will soon receive a full squadron of Sukhoi Su-35 fighter planes from Russia, a move that is certain to further enrage the West as Tehran and Moscow strengthen their defense and economic collaboration in defiance of broad sanctions and draconian measures. According to media sources quoting military specialists, Iran will soon get 24 of the fourth-generation twin-engine, super-maneuverable fighter jets that are mostly used for air dominance missions. Some of the combat aircraft are anticipated to be housed at TAB 8 of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF), which is located in the Iranian city of Isfahan in the country's center. Based on Russia's United Aircraft Corporation (UAC), the Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jet "combines the qualities of a modern fighter (super-maneuverability, superior active and passive acquisition aids, high supersonic speed and long range, capability of managing battle group actions, etc.) and a good tactical airplane (wide range of weapons that can be carried,

modern multi-channel electronic warfare system, reduced radar signature, and high combat survivability).”

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/480210/Russia-set-to-supply-Iran-with-Su-35-fighter-jets-in-near-future>

Official: Iran Planning to Produce Medicines Using Heavy Water

Fars News Agency, December 28, 2022

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami hailed the country's progress in the pharmaceutical field using the nuclear knowledge, and said that Tehran is seeking to manufacture drugs from heavy water derivatives. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Eslami referred to Iran's efforts to boost the application of nuclear technology in the medical sector and treatment of patients suffering from cancer. The top nuclear official said the country is working on plans to produce medicine based on heavy water. "Annually, one million patients benefit from the country's capacities in the field of radiopharmaceuticals," he noted. The only Iranian company in the field of radiopharmaceutical production in the world is sanctioned, he continued, stating that it shows that people's lives have no value for sanctions.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011007000690/Official-Iran-Planning-Prdce-Medicines-Using-Heavy-Waer>

Iranian Army to Hold Massive Military Exercises in Hormuz Strait, Indian Ocean

Fars News Agency, December 29, 2022

Iran's Army will start large-scale drills across a zone stretching from the Eastern side of the Hormuz Strait in the Persian

Gulf to the Northern part of the Indian Ocean on Thursday. Speaking to reporters on Thursday, Deputy Chief of the Iranian Army for Coordination Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari said that the joint drills — codenamed Zolfaqar 1401 — will begin later tonight with the key motto of “self-confidence, power, sustainable security” to promote the combat capability of the Armed Forces. He added that the infantry and armored units as well as mechanized regiments of the Army's Ground Force, air defense systems, subsurface, surface and flying vessels and rangers of the Navy will participate. Strategic bombers of the Air Force will also provide logistical support.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011008000431/Iranian-Army-Hld-Massive-Miliary-Exercises-in-Hrmz-Srai-Indian-Ocean>

Air, Ground, Naval Forces Conduct Missions During Iranian Army Wargames

Fars News Agency, December 31, 2022

Iranian Army's air, ground and naval units carried out patrol, reconnaissance, defense and combat missions during large-scale military exercises across a zone stretching from the Eastern side of the Hormuz Strait in the Persian Gulf to the Northern part of the Indian Ocean. Detailed the second day of the Iranian Army units' exercise in Jask port in Hormozgan province in the Southern part of the country, "Zolfaqar 1401" Joint Drills Spokesman Brigadier General Alireza Sheikh said, "Today, there are many tasks on the agenda, one part has been done so far and the second part will be done in the night." "Naval and ground force joining operations will be conducted on the ground, and situational development will take place so

that forces can capture predetermined objectives," he added.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14011010000663/Air-Grnd-Naval-Frces-Cndc-Missins-Dring-Iranian-Army-Wargames>

Iraq

Latest Islamic State attack highlights security challenges facing Iraq

Al-Monitor, December 19, 2022

At least nine members of the Iraqi security forces were killed and three others were wounded on Sunday in a bomb attack targeting their convoy in the Kirkuk governorate of northern Iraq. The Islamic State (IS) immediately claimed responsibility via its Telegram account. The attack took place near Safra, a village about 20 miles south of Kirkuk in the Kurdistan Region. Immediately following the explosion, a clash broke out between security forces and IS militants, leading to the killing of one IS member. The area is located near the borders of the Salahuddin and Diyala provinces, and the nature of the terrain — with desert plains and mountains — provides a safe haven for the terrorist organization.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/12/latest-islamic-state-attack-highlights-security-challenges-facing-iraq>

Joint Ops: New measures for military units in Kirkuk

Iraqi News Agency, December 19, 2022

Joint Operations Command announced on Monday, that a number of security measures were taken after the terrorist incident in Kirkuk. "The measures included decisions after the terrorist incident that the federal police forces were exposed to

earlier on Sunday, on the outskirts of Riyadh district," said the official spokesman for the Joint Ops Command, Major General Tahsin al-Khafaji, to the Iraqi News Agency – INA. He noted, "The procedures included re-evaluating security plans in areas under activities of terrorist gangs, assessing the position of the security forces and activating the intelligence effort, in addition to the redeployment of security forces in those areas,".

<https://ina.iq/eng/23682-joint-ops-new-measures-for-military-units-in-kirkuk.html>

Yazidis in Iraqi Kurdistan face 'extinction,' community leaders say

Al-Monitor, December 19, 2022

In a barren roadside expanse under a clear winter sky, young boys dream of being the next Messi as they kick a soccer ball around. The girls beguile visitors, cupping their thumbs and index fingers to make heart signs and sharing their hopes of becoming doctors and lawyers one day. Yet there are few such prospects for these children at the Sharya camp for Yazidis, the ethnic Kurdish minority whose men were butchered and women and girls raped and enslaved by the Islamic State (IS) when it swept across their ancestral homeland of Sinjar in 2014. Hazi, 13, says she has lived here with her six brothers and five sisters for eight years. "Life is very difficult," she told Al-Monitor. "Our tents keep getting damaged. In summer it is like hell and in winter the tents are wet and cold." "We are afraid Daesh will return," chimed in Hayo, 12, using the Arabic language acronym for IS. She wants to be a dentist, she said.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/12/yazidis-iraqi-kurdistan-face-extinction-community-leaders-say>

Iraqi air force kills 5 terrorists with an air strike in Tal Afar

Iraqi News Agency, January 21, 2022

The spokesman for the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Major General Yahya Rasool, announced on Wednesday, the killing of 5 terrorists with an air strike in Tal Afar district. Maj. Gen Rasool said, in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "under the direction of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, and according to accurate information from the heroes in the Counter-Terrorism Service, the brave air hawks and army aviation carried out an air strike in Tal Afar district within the Sheikh Ibrahim mountains." The statement added, "The operation resulted, according to preemptive intelligence, in the killing of (5) terrorists, one of whom was a leader of the terrorist ISIS gangs."

<https://ina.iq/eng/23722-iraqi-air-force-kills-5-terrorists-with-an-air-strike-in-tal-afar.html>

Iraq: Recommendations to maintain security and stability

Iraqi News Agency, December 21, 2022

Ministerial Council for National Security discussed on Wednesday, the terrorist attacks in Kirkuk and Diyala, as well as securing the borders with Turkey and Iran. Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and PM Muhammad Shiaa Al-Sudani, chaired a meeting of the Ministerial Council for National Security, during which recent urgent and security updates were discussed in the country, said the spokesman for the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Major General Yehia Rasool, in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency - INA. He added, "The meeting discussed the two terrorist attacks

that targeted innocent people in Kirkuk and Diyala, as the council affirmed the approval of recommendations to maintain security and stability."

<https://ina.iq/eng/23731-iraqi-recommendations-to-maintain-security-and-stability.html>

Iraqi PM orders 'unconventional methods' to stop Islamic State attacks

Al-Monitor, December 22, 2022

A large 'martyr's photo' has been placed outside the headquarters of the Ali al-Akbar Brigade in this southern Shia-dominant city in commemoration of one of the group's unit commanders, who was killed farther north in the Diyala governorate in late November in an Islamic State attack. The Ali al-Akbar Brigade is part of the country's official, government-salaried Popular Mobilization Units. As the traditional Islamic 40 days of mourning for the man continue, so do attacks in both Diyala and neighboring Kirkuk. Multiple members of the country's security forces have been killed.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/12/iraqi-pm-orders-unconventional-methods-stop-islamic-state-attacks>

Yarallah heads a security delegation to oversee military units' deployments in Diyala

Iraqi News Agency, December 24, 2022

The Ministry of Defense-MOD announced on Saturday, that a high-ranking security delegation visited Diyala Governorate to directly supervise the deployments of the military units there. "Army Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Abdul Amir Rashid Yarallah, and the Deputy Commander of Joint Operations Command, Lieutenant

General Qais Khalaf al-Muhammadawi, arrive at Diyala Operations Command sector," said the reporter of The Iraqi News Agency (INA). INA reporter also added, "The security delegation came to Diyala Governorate, to directly supervise the deployment of military units within the sector of Diyala Operations Command."

<https://ina.iq/eng/23768-yarallah-heads-a-security-delegation-to-oversee-military-units-deployments-in-diyala.html>

Al-Sudani chairs a security meeting in the Basra Operations command

Iraqi News Agency, December 25, 2022

Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Muhammad Shia Al-Sudani, directed on Sunday, the security services to provide a safe environment for the success of 25th Arabian Gulf Cup. The media office of the Prime Minister stated in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA): "This afternoon, Sunday, Al-Sudani chaired a security meeting in the Basra Operations Command, which included security and military leaders and officials in the province." The statement added, "Al-Sudani reviewed a security briefing that reviewed the progress of efforts to secure the province in its districts and sub-districts, and followed the course of proactive security and intelligence work to combat organized crime and terrorism, as well as drug crimes, and stressed the importance of not being lenient in keeping this file under all circumstances."

<https://ina.iq/eng/23798-al-sudani-chairs-a-security-meeting-in-the-basra-operations-command-includes-security-and-military-leaders-and-officials-in-the-province.html>

Rasool: PM Al-Sudani orders to tighten zero point of Iraqi borders

Iraqi News Agency, December 27, 2022

Spokesman for the Commander-in-Chief Major General Yehia Rasool said in a press conference held on Tuesday, attended by the reporter of the Iraqi News Agency (INA), that "the past month witnessed many events that included consolidating international relations and follow-up of artistic matters, especially the large celebrations of Victory Day and preparation for the Gulf Cup 25th Championship," noting that "the 102th anniversary of the founding of the Iraqi army and the opening of the Gulf Cup 25th in Basra will be the same day." Rasool welcomed "all Arab and Gulf countries," pointing out that "this tournament sends a message that Iraq enjoys stability." Rasool added that "the commander-in-chief issued during the ministerial security meeting an order to tighten the zero point between Iraq, Syria and Iran by the Iraqi forces and support them logistically," pointing to "continuing to build the capabilities of the armed forces."

<https://ina.iq/eng/23832-rasool-pm-al-sudani-orders-to-tighten-zero-point-of-iraqi-borders.html>

Israel

Airstrike On Syria-Iraq Border Demonstrates Long Reach Of Israeli Airpower

Forbes, December 17, 2022

On Nov. 8, an airstrike struck a convoy of trucks crossing from Iraq into Syria near Al-Qaim. Israeli Lt. Gen. Aviv Kochavi later confirmed Israel's involvement when he said Israeli warplanes had hit "specific targets" in a convoy "passing from Iraq to Syria." Kochavi credited military and

intelligence with giving the IAF the ability to strike with such precision. Without these capabilities, he stressed, Israel “could have not known a few weeks ago about the Syrian convoy passing from Iraq to Syria. We could have not known what was in it, and we could have not known that out of 25 trucks, that was the truck. Truck No. 8 is the truck with the weapons.” That lone vehicle was determined by “perfect intelligence” to contain Iranian weaponry. Initial reports after the attack suggested it killed 14 members of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and allied militiamen. The arms were destined for Iran-backed militias in Syria’s eastern Deir ez-Zor province.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/pauliddon/2022/12/17/airstrike-on-syria-iraq-border-demonstrated-the-long-reach-of-israeli-airpower/?sh=4a61d0623b8e>

Israel’s Plasan to armor British Type 26 frigates for UK Royal Navy

Israel Defense, December 18, 2022

Plasan, an Israeli manufacturer of survivability solutions for land, air and naval platforms for the defense and military market, announced it has signed a contract with BAE Systems for the armoring of Type 26 Global Combat Ships for the UK Royal Navy – Batch 2, worth several tens of million NIS. The new Batch 2 contract includes composite armour for five Type 26 frigates. Plasan is currently delivering composite armor for the first three frigates as part of the Batch 1 contract. According to the company, the unique installation approach that was demonstrated as part of Batch 1 deliveries will allow simple and cost-effective integration for the entire Type 26 fleet of eight.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56638>

Rafael’s major Spike missile deal with Greece: additional details revealed

Israel Defense, December 20, 2022

The Greek media has recently been dealing with the details of the deal for the purchase of NLOS Spike missile systems worth hundreds of millions of euros for the Greek army, reported earlier this month. According to the Greek website Ellinikos Stratos, the total value of the transaction reaches 335 million euros, of which 280 million euros are intended for the army units and 55 million euros for the Greek Navy. Greece asked to receive 17 simulation systems designed for training and instruction. Israel offered 4 systems and eventually it was agreed to supply 8 such systems. The report further notes that Rafael is not the only Israeli company to benefit from this agreement. It turns out, that the Greek army decided to choose Sandcat vehicles from the Israeli company Plasan, as the vehicles on which the spike missile systems for the ground units will be installed. This makes the Greek army the only one in NATO that uses Sandcat vehicles.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56666>

Orbit to supply digital audio management systems to American fighter jets

Israel Defense, December 20, 2022

Orbit Technologies, an Israeli provider of communication and audio management solutions in airborne systems, announced that it had received an order worth approximately \$2.6 million from an American aircraft manufacturer and a supplier to the United States Department of Defense for the supply of digital audio management systems that Orbit developed

for its fighter jets. The systems will be used as spare parts for Orbit's serial systems that will be installed in its planes. The supply of the systems is expected during 2023 - 2024. This order joins previous orders from this customer for approximately \$19.1 million.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56668>

Philippine Navy Commissions New Fast-Attack Vessels From Israel

The Defense Post, December 21, 2022

The Philippine Navy has commissioned two new fast-attack interdiction craft missile (FAIC-M) vessels. Developed by Israel Shipyards, the FAIC-Ms are equipped with a Rafael-built naval combat suite that includes internal and external communication systems, a tactical data link, and a combat management system. Each vessel carries Typhoon and Mini-Typhoon remote operating weapon systems and naval Spike missiles as main armaments. The FAIC-Ms were delivered with complete support, training, and maintenance services. "We congratulate the Philippine Navy for commissioning its first two FAIC-M / SHALDAG MK5 vessels," Rafael Naval Warfare Systems Directorate Head and Vice President Ran Tavor said.

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2022/12/21/philippine-navy-fast-attack/>

Finland procures long-range rockets from Israel

Israel Defense, December 21, 2022

The Finnish Defense Ministry announced last week that it has signed a deal with an unnamed Israeli defense company for long-range 122mm missiles, worth €70 million. The company is thought to be Elbit Systems. Although not confirmed, the German website esut.de assumes that the

missiles are intended for the Finnish Army's RAKH 89 M1 multiple rocket launchers. The rocket launchers, originally manufactured in Czechoslovakia under the designation RM-70, were procured by Finland in 1991 in a quantity of 36 pieces from former East German stocks, of which 34 pieces are probably still in use. The wheeled RAKH 89 M1 is equipped with 40 pieces of 122mm tubes and is used by Finland in support of mechanized and motorized units. The system's original 122mm rockets have a range of around 20 km, while versions that are more modern increase this to around 30 km.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56680>

Elbit Systems awarded framework contract to supply tactical UAS to Romania

Israel Defense, December 21, 2022

Elbit Systems announced that it was awarded a framework contract with a maximum value of approximately \$410 million to supply up to seven Watchkeeper X tactical unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) for the Romanian Ministry of National Defense, with a validity of five years. No specific purchase order under the contract was awarded yet. The Watchkeeper X UAS is the UK export variant of the British army made by UAV Tactical Systems Limited ("U-TacS"), Elbit Systems' UK subsidiary, and is a derivative of the Hermes UAS family. The Watchkeeper X' compatibility with NATO standards enables essential interoperability with NATO and other allied forces. "This contract demonstrates the sustained demand for Elbit Systems' UAS. We look forward to further strengthening Elbit Systems' relationship with the Romanian Government," said Bezael (Butzi)

Machlis, President and CEO of Elbit Systems.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56688>

Elbit awarded \$36m contract to supply F-16 mission training center to Polish Air Force

Israel Defense, December 25, 2022

Israeli defense giant Elbit Systems announced that it was awarded a contract valued at approximately \$36 million to supply four F-16 Full Mission Simulators (FMS) to the Polish Air Force (PLAF). The contract will be performed over a 28-month period. The simulation technology at the core of the Mission Training Center enables higher quality training and improves mission readiness. Featuring a 360-degree display system, the interconnected simulators provide a high fidelity, full mission training experience. By providing an immersive real flight experience with no safety limitations, Elbit's training solution will provide PLAF F-16 pilots with a range of skills, from basic familiarity with the aircraft to advanced combat flight competencies in complex operational arenas.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56714>

Israeli Air Force grounds 11 F-35 fighter jets following recommendation from U.S.

I24 News, December 25, 2022

Israel's Air Force announced on Sunday that it decided to follow the recommendation of the American Aircraft Production Administration to ground 11 F-35 Type B fighter planes after a recent crash in Texas, U.S. "From the findings and the information transmitted, it was found that these planes require a dedicated inspection

in order to rule out the possibility of a repeated malfunction in the Israeli system," the Israeli military spokesperson said in a statement. "The Air Force will analyze the findings of the investigation of the incident and recommend how to safely return the planes to flight," the statement added.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1671972729-israel-air-force-grounds-11-f-35-fighter-jets-following-recommendation-from-u-s>

Gantz tells graduating pilots they could be flying to attack Iran in 2-3 years

The Times of Israel, December 28, 2022

Outgoing Defense Minister Benny Gantz told graduating air force pilots on Wednesday that they may participate in a strike on Iran's nuclear facilities in the coming years. "Israel has significantly increased its preparedness in recent years and is preparing for the possibility of an attack on Iran," Gantz said at the Israeli Air Force's Hatzetim Airbase in southern Israel, in what was set to be his final address as defense minister. "You may cross the sky to the east in two or three years and take part in an attack on nuclear sites in Iran, for which we are preparing," he said.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/gantz-tells-graduating-pilots-they-could-be-flying-to-attack-iran-in-2-3-years/>

Argentine Army equipping with loitering munition systems by Israel's UVision

Israel Defense, December 29, 2022

Argentina has decided to purchase Hero-30 and Hero-120 loitering munition systems from Israeli company UVision, designed for its special forces as well as airborne and naval units. According to Argentine website Aviacion, Argentinian Minister of Defense Jorge Taiana has signed an

agreement with the head of Israel's International Defense Cooperation Directorate (SIBAT), Yair Kulas, to purchase both versions of the unmanned aerial loitering systems. Reportedly, the Hero-30 is to be used in attacking soft-skinned vehicles and headquarters, while the large, Hero-120, will be used against armored fighting vehicles, bunkers, anti-aircraft guns and drones.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56759>

Israel selects Oshkosh Defense to produce hulls for new "Eitan" APC

Israel Defense, December 29, 2022

US corporation Oshkosh Defense was selected to produce hundreds of "Eitan" APC (Armored Personnel Carrier) hulls for the IDF. The deal between the procurement mission and Oshkosh Defense is estimated to be over 100 million dollars, according to a statement by the Israeli Ministry of Defense (IMoD). It will be financed by American aid funds. The IMoD's Tank and APC Directorate developed the "Eitan" APC. The hulls that will arrive in Israel in about 18 months will immediately join the production line. Once fully assembled, the vehicles will be transferred for operational use, thus significantly expanding the number of armored APCs used by the IDF. The "Eitan" is the most advanced wheeled APC of its kind in the world. It can carry 12 personnel at maximum-level protection, incorporates the "Iron Fist" active defense system, and includes advanced fire and control systems. This month, the Ministry of Defense will deliver the first operational APCs to the IDF's "Nahal" Brigade.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/56748>

New Israeli satellite enters orbit after successful launch

The Jerusalem Post, December 31, 2022

The EROS-C3 satellite was successfully launched from the Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, USA on December 30, Israel Aerospace Industries announced. "Today's launch of the EROS-C3 satellite is a further expression of the advanced technological capabilities of Israel Aerospace Industries, the space house of the State of Israel," IAI President and CEO Boaz Levy said. "After much work on the satellite, during which time the best brains of the men and women of IAI worked on its development and production, the satellite has begun transmitting data to the ground station. Israel Aerospace Industries cooperates with government bodies, academic institutions, NGOs, and investors from both Israel and abroad, to advance technological achievements, scientific research, and the development of future space technologies."

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-726259>

Lebanon

Israel could strike in Lebanon if Iran renews weapons smuggling

Al-Monitor, December 16, 2022

Israel's security system is concerned over attempts by Tehran to smuggle weapons to Hezbollah in Beirut via civilian flights from Tehran, a senior Israeli intelligence official told Al-Monitor this week. "This is not a cat and mouse game. It is more a skirmish between a cat and a snake. Both sides have pretty good capabilities and they know each other very well," the official told Al-Monitor on condition of anonymity,

referring to the campaign Israel has been waging over the past decade against extensive Iranian smuggling of arms, ammunition and precision missile components to Hezbollah. The latest round in this ongoing campaign was prompted by Israeli concerns over Iran's suspected intention to launch an aerial smuggling route from Tehran to Beirut using civilian flights of Meraj Airlines, operated by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, which started direct flights from Tehran to Beirut in mid-November.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/12/israel-could-strike-lebanon-if-iran-renews-weapons-smuggling>

Attack against UNIFIL in Lebanon – what we know so far

Ya Libnan, December 16, 2022

Numerous investigations are now under way into what exactly happened in Lebanon which could have led to the tragedy on Wednesday night which left one Irish soldier dead and another critically injured.

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon or UNIFIL, the Lebanese authorities led by a military prosecutor and a multidisciplinary team from the Irish Defence Forces are all now involved in trying to piece together the timeline of events. The country's caretaker Prime Minister Najib Makati today promised that those responsible for this attack will be brought to justice, but there is already an acknowledgement that this will be a complex investigation. Nicholas Blanford is a Beirut based consultant with US think tank the Atlantic Council.

<https://yalibnan.com/2022/12/16/attack-against-unifil-in-lebanon-what-we-know-so-far/>

Macron urges Lebanon to get rid of its leadership

Ya Libnan, December 24, 2022

French President Emmanuel Macron called on Lebanon Friday to “get rid” of its political leadership who have for months blocked reforms vital to save its stricken economy. “The problem with Lebanon is that we must solve people's problems and get rid of those who cannot do it,” Macron said, referring to the country's entrenched political class — widely blamed for the country's financial collapse since late 2019.

“Lebanon must change its leadership,” he said in an interview with three media outlets including Lebanon's Annahar newspaper. Macron has taken the lead in international efforts to bail out the Lebanese economy after a collapse in the value of the Lebanese pound plunged most of the population into poverty. International lenders have demanded that Lebanon adopt a programme of painful economic reforms in return for releasing billions of dollars in bailout loans.

<https://yalibnan.com/2022/12/24/macron-urges-lebanon-to-get-rid-of-its-leadership/>

One careful step at a time through south Lebanon's minefields

Ya Libnan, December 27, 2022

A visit to a minefield starts with some crucial safety notes. And they will save your life – when you are just steps away from deadly buried explosives, you need to pay attention. Red-painted sticks dug into the ground mean danger. Tread any further and you risk stepping right onto a mine. White sticks are the sign of a safe, cleared channel. Black sticks show where an anti-tank mine used to lie, with the explosives inside now burnt away. Wearing protective gear is vital. That means a helmet with a

visor that wraps around your face from ear to ear and covers well below the chin. Protective body armour drops almost to your knees, shielding your vital organs and arteries from the impact of any accidental blast.

<https://yalibnan.com/2022/12/27/one-careful-step-at-a-time-through-south-lebanons-minefields/>

Hezbollah chief has the flu cancels commemoration speech

Ya Libnan, December 30, 2022

The media relations office of the Iranian backed Hezbollah militant group announced the cancellation of the scheduled speech of Hassan Nasrallah, Secretary-General of Hezbollah this evening, due to health reasons after he contracted the flu. In a statement, the media relations office said that Nasrallah "is receiving appropriate treatment, Nasrallah's speech was to commemorate the death of the Iranian General Qassem Soleimani and the Iraqi general Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis, who were assassinated in Bagdad 3 years ago on January 3, 2020, at the Bagdad International Airport.

<https://yalibnan.com/2022/12/30/hezbollah-chief-has-the-flu-cancels-speech/>

Palestine

Hamas Missiles Can Strike Any Part of Occupied Territories: Official

Tasnim News Agency, December 18, 2022

Hamas has promoted its missile capabilities in the besieged Gaza Strip in such a way that its missiles can strike any part of the occupied territories, an official with the Palestinian resistance movement said. The head of the department of National

Relations Abroad of Hamas, Ali Baraka, made the remarks during a speech at a conference in the Lebanese capital Beirut, on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the movement's establishment, with the presence of Palestinian factions' leaders.

He noted that the world witnessed that the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades -- the military wing of Hamas-- fired the Ayyash 250 missile, with a range greater than 250 km, at Ramon Airport located near the Red Sea resort city of Eilat in Israel in 2021.

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2022/12/18/2823001/hamas-missiles-can-strike-any-part-of-occupied-territories-official>

Saudi Arabia

White House Defends Support for Saudis in Yemen War

VOA News, December 16, 2022

The White House on Friday defended its decision to block a war powers resolution in the Senate that would have ended U.S. support for Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen, saying it would have impeded delicate diplomatic talks. "We want to see that peace enduring and we want to see it sustainable. And so that's what we're talking about when we talk about the importance of making sure our diplomacy can succeed," National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said in an interview with VOA. U.S. support for a U.N.-brokered truce and peace talks has "achieved a measure of success," Kirby said. "We want to make sure we can lock that in and keep that going forward."

<https://www.voanews.com/a/white-house-defends-support-for-saudis-in-yemen-war-/6880474.html>

Why Saudis Don't Want to Pivot to China

Foreign Policy, December 16, 2022

Chinese President Xi Jinping just returned from three days of back-to-back summits in Riyadh: the first with Saudi Arabia's King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the second with leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the third with a larger group of Arab governments. The result of the summit marathon was a number of public and not-so public agreements on energy, trade, investment, technology cooperation, and various other areas. The summits ratified an increasingly close economic and security relationship. Saudi Arabia supplies China with 18 percent of its energy needs, and it is expanding orders for petrochemical, industrial, and military equipment, much of which it previously obtained from the United States. The White House, meanwhile, said Xi's attempt to expand Chinese influence in the Persian Gulf region is "not conducive to maintaining international order." Commentators described Xi's visit as a sign that Riyadh is abandoning its traditional relationship with Washington and pivoting to Beijing.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/12/16/saudi-arabia-china-xi-bin-salman-biden-oil-ope-geopolitics-security-middle-east/>

Saudi Arabia approves draft agreements on atomic energy, economic crime

Alarabiya, December 21, 2022

Saudi Arabia's cabinet rounded off 2022 by furthering its intentions to cooperate with a number of countries in fields including atomic energy and economic crime, Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported on

Wednesday. During Tuesday's cabinet session – chaired by Prime Minister and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman – members approved a framework agreement to cooperate with Morocco in "the field of peaceful uses of atomic energy". The Kingdom's cabinet also approved a draft Memorandum of Understanding with Uzbekistan to help allow the countries to exchange of information "related to money laundering, terrorist financing and related crimes," SPA reported.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/saudi-arabia/2022/12/21/Saudi-Arabia-approves-draft-agreements-on-atomic-energy-economic-crime>

Saudi Arabia warns against possession of nuclear materials without licence

Gulf News, December 26, 2022

The Saudi Public Prosecution has warned the public against the possession, use, transfer, alteration, adjusting, or disposing of nuclear materials without obtaining a licence, local media reported. In a statement issued yesterday, the public prosecution said that anyone who causes or may cause the death or serious injury of a person or severe damage to property or the environment would be subjected to a fine up to SR30 million, and jail term for a period of 10 years. The Public Prosecution clarified that the nuclear material is plutonium or uranium-233, or uranium-233 or uranium-235, in addition to the uranium containing a mixture of isotopes which are found in nature.

<https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/saudi-arabia-warns-against-possession-of-nuclear-materials-without-licence-1.92893174>

United Arab Emirates

UAE Combats Climate Change with Nuclear Power and Shares Its Experience

IAEA, December 2022

By anyone's standards, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a hot place to be in the summer. Temperatures during that season are regularly in the 40-degree Celsius range and, on occasion, exceed the 50-degree mark. Climate change is exacerbating the situation. The country of almost 10 million people, is categorized among those with the highest rate of vulnerability to climate change impacts, with warmer weather, less rain, droughts, higher sea levels and more storms expected. Keeping the country habitable in the long term means addressing climate change. One way the UAE is addressing climate change is by reducing the carbon footprint of its energy system with nuclear power — a strategy that, through cooperation with the IAEA, it is helping to replicate in other countries.

<https://www.iaea.org/bulletin/uae-combats-climate-change-with-nuclear-power-and-shares-its-experience>

Syrian Arab Republic

Sabbagh: Resolution to crisis in Syria requires from Security council to move and stop Israeli recurrent attacks, remove blockade

Syrian Arab News Agency, December 21, 2022

Syria's permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Bassam Sabbagh, said that challenges of terrorism, the illegal military presence on Syrian

territories, Israeli recurrent attacks and the coercive unilateral measures require Security Council to condemn these violations and end them immediately. "Insistence on continuing the aid mechanism through borders that is encircled with a lot of breaches and faults, reflects an uncovered selectivity and a clear discrimination among Syrians who deserve those aids," Ambassador Sabbagh said at UNSC session on the political and humanitarian affairs in Syria. He added that the feverish endeavors by the US and EU countries to extend the mechanism of aid delivering through their claims on humanitarian commitment to the Syrian people contradict with their unprecedented blockade.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=293904>

Chinese diplomat: repeated Turkish and Israeli attacks on Syrian territory are flagrant violation

Syrian Arab News Agency, December 22, 2022

China has renewed its demand to respect Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity and not to interfere in its internal affairs. "Syria is a sovereign state and any military operation on its territory without the consent of the Syrian government, whatever the pretext, is a violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity", China's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Geng Shuang, said during a session of the Security Council on Syria yesterday, as reported by Xinhua,

referring in this context to the Turkish aggressions and repeated Israeli attacks on Syrian territory.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=293925>

Syria, Pakistan discuss boosting cooperation in telecommunications and informatics sector

Syrian Arab News Agency, December 22, 2022

Minister of Communications and Technology, Eng. Iyad al-Khatib, discussed on Thursday with Ambassador of Pakistan in Damascus, Shahid Akhtar, ways to enhance bilateral relations in communications and informatics sector.

During the meeting, held at the building of the Ministry of Communication and Technology in Damascus on Thursday, minister al-Khatib noted to the cooperation between both sides, especially in the field of software and its applications, in a way that serves the common interests of both countries.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=293954>

Defense Ministers of Syria, Russia and Turkey discuss efforts of combating terrorism and issue of refugees

Syrian Arab News Agency, December 28, 2022

A tripartite session of talks was held in Moscow Tuesday among defense Ministers of Syria, Russia and Turkey.

The talks dealt with efforts of fighting terrorism, the situation in Syria and the issue of refugees, SANA correspondent in Moscow said. The correspondent added that the three Ministers affirmed the need for the continuation of joint dialogue to realize stability in Syria and the region. "On December 28th, A tripartite session of talks was held in Moscow Tuesday among defense Ministers of Syria, Russia and Turkey and the talks dealt with efforts of fighting terrorism, the situation in Syria and the issue of refugees," the correspondent

quoted a statement by Russian Defense Ministry as saying.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=294399>

Turkey

Akinci UCAV test-fires Türkiye's 1st air-to-ground supersonic missile

Daily Sabah, December 19, 2022

Developed with domestic resources, Türkiye's first air-to-ground supersonic missile, the TRG-230, hit its target with pinpoint accuracy at a distance of 100 kilometers (62 miles) in a recent test. The TRG-230 air-to-ground missile, developed by Roketsan under the coordination of the Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB), was fired from Baykar's landmark Akinci unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV), according to the missile-developing company. The Akinci, which took off from a base in northwestern Tekirdağ province's Çorlu district and covered a distance of about 700 kilometers off the northern Black Sea province of Sinop, hit its target over 100 kilometers away. The feat marks the first ballistic supersonic missile launched from air to ground in Türkiye.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/akinci-ucav-test-fires-turkiyes-1st-air-to-ground-supersonic-missile>

UAV, ammo sales to carry Turkish defense exports to new highs

Daily Sabah December 20, 2022

The Turkish defense industry is set to break new export records this year with growing unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) and ammunition sales. The export momentum, achieved in the sector in recent years, was maintained in 2022 with Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB) coordination, defense and aerospace export data revealed.

The foreign sales of the defense and aerospace industry, which was \$2.7 billion (TL 50.39 billion) during last year's 11 months, increased by 35.7% and reached \$3.7 billion. The share of defense exports was 68.9%, while that of civil aviation stood at 20.3%. The 12-month export performance of the defense sector is projected to reach \$4.2 billion with an increase of 37.4%. If the sector carries its performance to the last month of the year, the export target of \$4 billion will be achieved with a new annual export record.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/uav-ammo-sales-to-carry-turkish-defense-exports-to-new-highs>

Turkish defense firm signs export contract for TB2 drones with Albania

Anadolu Agency, December 20, 2022

Turkish drone manufacturer Baykar on Tuesday announced signing an export contract with Albania. "We signed an export contract for the BayraktarTB2 armed UAV with Albania," said Baykar Technologies on Twitter. The number of countries to which the Turkish fighter drone Bayraktar TB2 is being exported has risen to 27, according to the firm. Haluk Bayraktar, CEO of Baykar, said on Twitter: "We signed an export contract with Albania, a country we have walked along for centuries and share strong historical, cultural and humanitarian ties." He also shared photographs from the signing ceremony. The reputation and international demand for Türkiye's Bayraktar TB2 and Bayraktar Akinci have risen across Europe since the start this February of Russia's war on Ukraine.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkiye/turkish-defense-firm-signs-export-contract-for-tb2-drones-with-albania/2768733>

Nuclear energy: Pakistan, Turkiye may discuss cooperation

Business Recorder, December 21, 2022

Pakistan and Turkiye are likely to discuss cooperation in nuclear energy during 7th round of High Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) to be held in Islamabad soon, well-informed sources told *Business Recorder*. During the upcoming HLSCC's meeting, leadership of both sides will review the progress on the various cooperation proposals/mechanisms under the 9th Joint Working Groups (JWGs). Matters pertaining to bilateral trade and investment, including the issues faced by Turkish investors in Pakistan and their expedited redressal, too will come under discussion.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40215753/nuclear-energy-pakistan-turkiye-may-discuss-cooperation>

Turkish-made drones 'playing huge role in Ukraine,' says senior NATO official

Daily Sabah, December 22, 2022

Turkish-made drones used by Ukraine on the battlefield are "playing a huge role in Ukraine," according to David van Weel, NATO's assistant secretary general for emerging security challenges. Van Weel told Anadolu Agency (AA) in an exclusive interview that Türkiye's drone industry "is a very good example of the very vibrant innovation system." "It is a good example of what innovation can do in modern-day warfare. The ongoing war in Ukraine demonstrates what the future of warfare looks like," the senior NATO official said.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-made-drones-playing-huge-role-in-ukraine-says-senior-nato-official>

Bull's eye: Turkish combat drone Akıncı test-fires new-gen guidance kit

Daily Sabah, December 23, 2022

Türkiye's landmark combat drone has undergone a firing test with a new generation guidance kit, achieving yet another milestone in the integration process of domestically manufactured precision guidance systems and ammunition. Akıncı hit the target with high precision with a 1,000-pound (about 455 kilograms) MK-83 bomb equipped with the guidance kit named Gökçe after taking off from a flight training and test center in northwestern Tekirdağ's Çorlu district. "Bull's Eye," wrote Selçuk Bayraktar, chief technology officer (CTO) of Akıncı developer Baykar, as he shared a video of the test on Twitter.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/bulls-eye-turkish-combat-drone-akinci-test-fires-new-gen-guidance-kit>

Türkiye's UCAV Akıncı test-fires with Aselsan's laser guidance kit

Daily Sabah December 30, 2022

Türkiye's cutting-edge unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) Bayraktar Akıncı, bearing a Turkish defense giant Aselsan-made CATS camera, has test fired with an Aselsan laser guidance kit, hitting the target with pinpoint accuracy. The drone's developer Baykar shared the development on Twitter. The laser guidance kit was integrated with a MK-82 bomb, also developed by Aselsan, and was used in the test firing. The kit converts 227-kilogram (500-pound) MK-82 and 2-ton MK-84 dumb bombs into cost-effective and highly reliable smart weapons. According to the company, it provides increased accuracy, delivery range, reduced collateral damage and after-release re-targeting capability against both stationary and moving targets.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkiyes-ucav-akinci-test-fires-with-aselsans-laser-guidance-kit>

Turkish air defense missile Siper completes test fire at 62 miles

Daily Sabah, December 31, 2022

Türkiye's domestically produced high-altitude long-range air defense missile system, Siper, successfully completed its test fire. It hit the target with a range of over 100 kilometers (62 miles), according to a top defense official. The Siper project is led by Türkiye's defense giants Aselsan and Roketsan, as well as the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TUBITAK). "A New Year's gift to our nation as we enter the Turkish Century from our defense industry," tweeted Ismail Demir, the head of Türkiye's Defense Industries Presidency.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-air-defense-missile-siper-completes-test-fire-at-62-miles>

NUCLEAR AND ARMS CONTROL CENTRE

*Sylloge on West Asia is compiled by Mr. Kushal Agrawal
with inputs from Mr. Niranjana C. Oak.*

Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

**No. 1, Development Enclave,
Rao Tula Ram Marg,
Delhi Cantt., New Delhi-110 010
Telephone: 91-11-26717983;
Fax: 91-11-26154191,
Website: www.idsa.in**



**MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES**
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्थयन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान